

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-6 and 10-13 are pending. Responsive to the Office Action of April 9, 2007, the Examiner's comments and the cited art have been noted and studied. For reasons to be set forth in detail below, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and such action is requested.

To expedite allowance, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite preferred embodiments. In particular, claims 1 and 11 now recite that the trigger mechanism triggers a "releasably" locked immobilization of the pressure tip (see, for example, paragraph 0033 of the original disclosure). This releasable nature of the locked immobilization provides for beneficial automatic operation (see, for example, paragraph 0035 of the original disclosure).

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments above are supported by the specification, claims, abstract of the disclosure, and drawings as originally filed, and that no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections under §103

The subject matter of claims 1, 2, 5 and 10-12 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over US Pub. No. 2004/0215224 by Sakata et al. (hereinafter "Sakata") in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0188223 by Perez et al. (hereinafter "Perez").

Applicant's understanding of Sakata was detailed in Applicant's previous response. Perez, as understood, describes a device that includes a "bi-stable" deformable expression member (see, for example, paragraphs 0083 and 0085 of Perez). The deformable expression member has "stable" extended and inverted positions (see, for example, paragraph 0084 of Perez).

Amended claims 1 and 11 each recite a trigger mechanism that triggers a "releasably" locked immobilization of a pressure tip with respect to a housing. Neither Sakata nor Perez describe such a releasably locked immobilization. The Office Action notes that Sakata does not disclose locked immobilization relative to a housing. Although Perez discloses a deformable expression member with a stable inverted position, this position is simply a mechanically stable position and not a "releasably locked position." Therefore, the suggested combination of Sakata and Perez does not yield the currently claimed subject matter.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 11, as amended, are allowable over the combination of Sakata and Perez. Since dependent claims necessarily contain the limitations of their parent claims, claims 2, 5, 10 and 12 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

The subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 4 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Sakata in view of Perez and U.S. Patent 6,589,260 to Schmelzeisen-Redeker et al. (hereinafter "Schmelzeisen-Redeker"). The subject matter of dependent claim 6 was rejected as obvious over Sakata in view of Perez and U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0038465 by Shrager (hereinafter "Shrager").

Applicant's understanding of Schmelzeisen-Redeker and Shrager was detailed in the previous Response. Applicant respectfully submits that neither Schmelzeisen-Redeker nor Shrager cure the deficiencies of Sakata and Perez described above. Therefore, Applicant submits that dependent claims 3, 4 and 6 are allowable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and applicants earnestly solicit early examination on the merits and issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner believe that any additional information or amendment is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, he is urged to contact the undersigned Attorney via telephone at 408 956-4790, or facsimile number 408 956-4404.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due in connection with this submission, including petition and extension of time fees, and to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0750 (Docket No. LFS5016USNP/MM) (Johnson & Johnson).

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 8, 2007

By: /Mayumi Maeda/
Mayumi Maeda
Reg. No. 40,075

Serial No. 10/698,775

Johnson & Johnson
International Patent Law Division
Attention Philip Johnson
P.O. Box 1222
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
(408) 956-4790